

PUBLIC DOCUMENT

. . . . No. 44.

THIRTEENTH REPORT

OF THE

FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION

OF

MASSACHUSETTS.

1903.



BOSTON :

WRIGHT & POTTER PRINTING CO., STATE PRINTERS,

18 POST OFFICE SQUARE.

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STATE LIBRARY OF MASSACHUSETTS

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STATE HOUSE BOSTON

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MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION.

Miss E. P. SOHIER, <i>Secretary</i> , Beverly,	term expires 1907.
C. B. TILLINGHAST, <i>Chairman</i> , Boston,	term expires 1905.
Mrs. MABEL SIMPKINS AGASSIZ, Yarmouth,	term expires 1904.
SAMUEL SWETT GREEN, Worcester,	term expires 1904.
HENRY S. NOURSE, Lancaster,	term expires 1903.

REPORT OF THE COMMISSION.

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives.

In accordance with the provisions of chapter 347 of the Acts of the year 1890, under which the Free Public Library Commission was organized, the commission herewith presents its thirteenth report, covering the calendar year 1902.

THE COMMISSION.

Miss Elizabeth P. Sohier has been reappointed a member of the commission for the full term of five years; Miss Mabel Simpkins is now Mrs. Mabel Simpkins Agassiz.

BOOKS SUPPLIED DURING THE YEAR.

The following towns have been supplied during the year with a first installment of books, under the provisions of chapter 233 of the Acts of 1900:—

Berkley,	Leyden,	Phillipston,
Burlington,	Mashpee,	Plympton,
Chester,	Monroe,	Richmond,
Erving,	Monterey,	Russell,
Florida,	Montgomery,	Rutland,
Gay Head,	New Ashford,	Southwick,
Goshen,	New Salem,	Sunderland,
Gosnold,	North Reading,	Tolland,
Granville,	Oakham,	Wales,
Halifax,	Paxton,	West Stockbridge,
Hawley,	Pelham,	Whately. — 35.
Holland,	Peru,	

The second installment, completing in each case the \$100 worth allowed by the law, has been supplied to the following towns:—

Burlington,	Richmond,	West Stockbridge,
Chesterfield,	Wendell,	Windsor. — 6.

TOWNS STILL ENTITLED TO BENEFIT UNDER THE LAW.

The full allowance of \$100 worth : —

Alford,	Gill,	Prescott,
Auburn,	Lakeville,	Savoy,
Blandford,	Lanesborough,	Shutesbury,
Boylston,	Middleton,	Washington. — 16.
Clarksburg,	Mount Washington,	
Egremont,	New Marlborough,	

The second allowance is due to the following towns : —

Alford,	Granville,	Orleans,
Ashby,	Greenwich,	Otis,
Auburn,	Halifax,	Paxton,
Berkley,	Hampden,	Pelham,
Berlin,	Hancock,	Peru,
Blandford,	Hawley,	Phillipston,
Bolton,	Heath,	Plainfield,
Boxborough,	Holland,	Plympton,
Boylston,	Huntington,	Prescott,
Brimfield,	Lakeville,	Rochester,
Carlisle,	Lanesborough,	Rowe,
Charlemont,	Leverett,	Royalston,
Chester,	Leyden,	Russell,
Chilmark,	Mashpee,	Rutland,
Clarksburg,	Mendon,	Sandisfield,
Colrain,	Middlefield,	Savoy,
Dana,	Middleton,	Shutesbury,
Dunstable,	Monroe,	Southwick,
Eastham,	Monterey,	Sunderland,
East Longmeadow,	Montgomery,	Tolland,
Egremont,	Mount Washington,	Truro,
Erving,	New Ashford,	Tyngsborough,
Florida,	New Braintree,	Tyringham,
Gay Head,	New Marlborough,	Wales,
Gill,	New Salem,	Warwick,
Goshen,	Norfolk,	Washington,
Gosnold,	North Reading,	Whately. — 83.
Granby,	Oakham,	

The towns have readily made such provision for the distribution of the books to different villages and outlying districts as are practicable, and the stimulus given by the State has been an important aid in that direction.

Lakeville and Norwell are still without a free public library, though the James Library in Norwell is practically accessible to all the people of the town.

TOWNS CLASSIFIED AS TO LIBRARIES.

The following classification of the towns, revised to date, shows the free library facilities they now enjoy : —

CLASS 1.

Towns which have libraries owned and controlled by the town and free for circulation to all the people.

Abington,	Chester,	Granville,
Acushnet,	Chesterfield,	Greenfield,
Adams,	Chicopee,	Greenwich,
Agawam,	Chilmark,	Groton,
Alford,	Clarksburg,	Groveland,
Amesbury,	Clinton,	Hadley,
Andover,	Cohasset,	Halifax,
Arlington,	Colrain,	Hamilton,
Ashburnham,	Conway,	Hampden,
Ashby,	Dalton,	Hancock,
Ashland,	Dana,	Hanover,
Athol,	Dartmouth,	Hanson,
Attleborough,	Dedham,	Hardwick,
Auburn,	Deerfield,	Harvard,
Avon,	Dennis,	Hatfield,
Bellingham,	Dighton,	Hawley,
Belmont,	Douglas,	Heath,
Berkley,	Dover,	Holbrook,
Berlin,	Dracut,	Holden,
Beverly,	Dudley,	Holland,
Blackstone,	Dunstable,	Holliston,
Blandford,	East Bridgewater,	Hopedale,
Bolton,	Eastham,	Hubbardston,
Boston,	East Longmeadow,	Hudson,
Bourne,	Edgartown,	Hull,
Boxborough,	Egremont,	Huntington,
Boylston,	Erving,	Hyde Park,
Bridgewater,	Essex,	Kingston,
Brimfield,	Everett,	Lancaster,
Brockton,	Fall River,	Lanesborough,
Brookfield,	Falmouth,	Leicester,
Brookline,	Fitchburg,	Leominster,
Burlington,	Florida,	Leverett,
Cambridge,	Foxborough,	Leyden,
Canton,	Framingham,	Longmeadow,
Carlisle,	Freetown,	Lowell,
Carver,	Gay Head,	Ludlow,
Charlemont,	Gill,	Lunenburg,
Charlton,	Gosben,	Lynn,
Chelmsford,	Gosnold,	Lynnfield,
Chelsea,	Granby,	Manchester,

Mansfield,	Paxton,	Swampscott,
Marblehead,	Peabody,	Swansea,
Marlborough,	Pelham,	Taunton,
Marshfield,	Pepperell,	Templeton,
Mashpee,	Peru,	Tewksbury,
Mattapoisett,	Phillipston,	Tolland,
Maynard,	Plainfield,	Topsfield,
Medfield,	Plympton,	Townsend,
Medford,	Prescott,	Truro,
Medway,	Provincetown,	Tyngsborough,
Melrose,	Quincy,	Tyringham,
Mendon,	Reading,	Upton,
Merrimac,	Revere,	Uxbridge,
Middleborough,	Richmond,	Wakefield,
Middlefield,	Rochester,	Wales,
Middleton,	Rockland,	Walpole,
Milford,	Rockport,	Waltham,
Millbury,	Rowe,	Warwick,
Millis,	Rowley,	Watertown,
Milton,	Royalston,	Wayland,
Monroe,	Russell,	Webster,
Montague,	Rutland,	Wellfleet,
Monterey,	Salisbury,	Wendell,
Montgomery,	Sandisfield,	Wenham,
Mount Washington,	Sandwich,	Westborough,
Nahant,	Saugus,	West Boylston,
Natick,	Savoy,	West Bridgewater,
Needham,	Seekonk,	West Brookfield,
New Ashford,	Sharon,	Westford,
New Bedford,	Sheffield,	Westminster,
New Braintree,	Shelburne,	West Newbury,
Newburyport,	Sherborn,	Weston,
New Marlborough,	Shirley,	Westport,
New Salem,	Shrewsbury,	West Springfield,
Newton,	Shutesbury,	West Stockbridge,
Norfolk,	Somerset,	Westwood,
North Adams,	Somerville,	Weymouth,
Northampton,	Southborough,	Whately,
North Andover,	Southbridge,	Whitman,
North Attleborough,	South Hadley,	Wilbraham,
Northborough,	Southwick,	Williamsburg,
North Brookfield,	Spencer,	Williamstown,
Northfield,	Sterling,	Wilmington,
North Reading,	Stoneham,	Winchendon,
Norwood,	Stoughton,	Winchester,
Oakham,	Stow,	Windsor,
Orange,	Sturbridge,	Winthrop,
Orleans,	Sudbury,	Worcester,
Otis,	Sunderland,	Wrentham. — 272.
Oxford,	Sutton,	

CLASS 2.

Towns which have free libraries in which the town has some representation in the management.

Acton,	Franklin,	Malden,
Ayer,	Georgetown,	Methuen,
Barre,	Grafton,	Norton,
Bedford,	Haverhill,	Pembroke,
Belchertown,	Hingham,	Petersham,
Bernardston,	Hinsdale,	Pittsfield,
Braintree,	Holyoke,	Randolph,
Concord,	Lawrence,	Salem,
Cummington,	Lenox,	Springfield,
Danvers,	Lexington,	Warren,
Easthampton,	Lincoln,	Westfield,
Enfield,	Littleton,	Woburn. — 36.

CLASS 3.

Towns in which there are free libraries to which the town appropriates money, but is not represented in the management.

Amherst,	Great Barrington,	Scituate,
Ashfield,	Harwich,	Southampton,
Boxford,	Lee,	Stockbridge,
Brewster,	Monson,	Tisbury,
Chatham,	Nantucket,	Ware,
Cheshire,	Northbridge,	Wellesley,
Cottage City,	Palmer,	Westhampton,
Duxbury,	Plymouth,	West Tisbury,
Gardner,	Princeton,	Worthington. — 27.

CLASS 4.

Towns in which there are free libraries which have no connection with the town.

Barnstable,	Fairhaven,	Raynham,
Becket,	Gloucester,	Rehoboth,
Billerica,	Hopkinton,	Wareham,
Buckland,	Ipswich,	Yarmouth. — 14.
Easton,	Marion,	

CLASS 5.

Towns which have the free use of public libraries in other places.

Newbury,	Newburyport Public Library,
Washington,	Becket Athenæum. — 2.

CLASS 6.

Towns having no free public library privileges.

Lakeville,	Norwell. — 2.
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OTHER FREE LIBRARY FACILITIES IN MASSACHUSETTS TOWNS,
IN ADDITION TO THE TOWN LIBRARY PROPER.

There are free libraries in villages or separate portions of the towns, mainly under private management, as follows:—

Amherst,—

North Amherst, . . . North Amherst Public Library.

Andover,—

Ballardvale, . . . Bradlee Library.

Ashburnham,—

South Ashburnham, . . . South Ashburnham Library.

Barnstable,—

Centreville, . . . Centreville Free Public Library Association.

Cotuit, . . . Cotuit Library.

Hyannis, . . . Hyannis Free Public Library.

Marston's Mills, . . . Marston's Mills Library.

Osterville, . . . Osterville Public Library.

Billerica,—

Talbot Mills, . . . Talbot Library.

Boxford,—

West Boxford, . . . West Boxford Public Library.

Chelmsford,—

North Chelmsford, . . . North Chelmsford Library Association.

Dana,—

North Dana, . . . Dana Free Public Library.

Dartmouth,—

South Dartmouth, . . . Southworth Library.

Deerfield,—

Pocumtuck Valley Association, Library of the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association.

Erving,—

Müller's Falls, . . . Erving Town Library.

Everett,—

Glendale, . . . Shute Memorial Library.

Falmouth,—

West Falmouth, . . . West Falmouth Library.

Woods Hole, . . . Woods Hole Library.

Freetown,—

East Freetown, . . . East Freetown Circulating Library.

Gill,—

Riverside, . . . Gill Free Public Library.

Gloucester,—	
<i>Magnolia,</i>	Magnolia Library.
Groveland,—	
<i>South Groveland,</i>	Hale Library.
Hanson,—	
<i>North Hanson,</i>	Hanson Free Public Library.
Hardwick,—	
<i>Gilbertville,</i>	George H. Gilbert Manufacturing Company's Library.
Hawley,—	
<i>West Hawley,</i>	Hawley Free Public Library.
Hingham,—	
<i>Nantasket,</i>	Nantasket Public Library.
Leverett,—	
<i>North Leverett,</i>	Leverett Free Public Library.
Medway,—	
<i>Medway Village,</i>	Dean Library.
Montague,—	
<i>Turner's Falls,</i>	Montague Public Library, Turner's Falls Branch.
Natick,—	
<i>South Natick,</i>	Bacon Free Library.
North Adams,—	
<i>Blackinton,</i>	Oscar A. Archer Branch.
Northampton,—	
<i>Florence,</i>	Lilly Free Library.
Norwell,	James Library.
Pembroke,—	
<i>Bryantville,</i>	Cobb Memorial Library.
Plymouth,—	
<i>North Plymouth,</i>	Loring Reading Room.
Raynham,—	
<i>North Raynham,</i>	North Raynham Library Association.
Rockport,—	
<i>Pigeon Cove,</i>	Pigeon Cove Library.
Scituate,—	
<i>North Scituate,</i>	Peirce Memorial Library.
Shelburne,—	
<i>Shelburne Falls,</i>	Arms Library.
South Hadley,—	
<i>South Hadley Falls,</i>	South Hadley Public Library.

Sutton,—

<i>Manchaug,</i>	.	.	.	Sutton Free Library.
<i>South Sutton,</i>	.	.	.	Sutton Free Library.
<i>West Sutton,</i>	.	.	.	Sutton Free Library.
<i>Wilkinsonville,</i>	.	.	.	Sutton Free Library.

Weymouth,—

<i>South Weymouth,</i>	.	.	Fogg Memorial Library.
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Williamsburg,—

<i>Haydenville,</i>	.	.	Haydenville Free Library.
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Williamstown,—

<i>South Williamstown,</i>	.	.	South Williamstown Public Library.
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Yarmouth,—

<i>South Yarmouth,</i>	.	.	South Yarmouth Library.
<i>West Yarmouth,</i>	.	.	West Yarmouth Library.

NOTES OF PROGRESS FROM THE LIBRARIES.

From the replies to a circular letter of inquiry sent to the librarians of the over 400 free public libraries of Massachusetts, and from the annual reports of the town and city trustees, have been derived the following notes. They indicate a very satisfactory growth of usefulness and prosperity in our libraries throughout the Commonwealth. They also plainly show that the natural bond between the public library and the public school is gaining a wider and fuller recognition, and is being drawn closer and closer year by year. We gratefully record the fact that in many localities the school superintendent and the teachers render systematic and efficient aid to the librarian in the work of leading the children to a familiar acquaintanceship with good literature. The fruits of this connection between school work and library privilege wisely supervised have been excellent and highly appreciated by all concerned. It is very gratifying to observe that the stream of private beneficence which has so notably flowed library-ward during the past decade shows no signs of intermittence.

ACUSHNET. The trustees acknowledge a gift of 100 volumes from the Millicent Library of Fairhaven, being a selection from the duplicates of the latter. Two branches, at Perry Hill and Long Plain, are supported. Miss Elsie Collins, having resigned the librarianship, has been succeeded by Mrs. J. E. Annas.

ADAMS. Among the exhibits displayed in the library, including several from the treasures of the Library Art Club, were two of the work done by children in the public schools. These were arranged and presented by the supervisor of drawing, and attracted more popular attention than all the others.

AMESBURY. The new library building, a brief description of which was given in the commission's report of 1901, was opened for public use in April last. Since that time several articles of useful furniture have been presented by citizens of the town. Of these are a handsome mahogany "grandfather's clock," and substantial cases for catalogue cards, periodicals, etc. Wrought-iron dogs for the fireplace in the children's room were bought by the children with money which they had earned.

AMHERST. A large increase in the circulation is found to be owing chiefly to the increase of the use of books by young people and children, who, "under the wise and helpful direction of the librarian, are learning to use the library well, and to read many other books beside the juvenile fiction which has formerly been their chief diet. No work that the library can accomplish compares in value with this for the children, in adding to their school education the culture that comes from the use of good literature."

ANDOVER. The trustees report successful endeavor to extend the plan of popular education through pictures, having purchased five hundred stereoscopic views, representative of history, art and scenery in foreign countries, as well as our own, which are on exhibition in the art room, and also to be issued under proper conditions for use in the classes of the public schools.

ARLINGTON. Mr. Winfield Robbins has given the library a collection of framed portraits of persons distinguished in history, supplementary to his former gift of portraits distinguished for artistic merit or illustrative of progress in the art of engraving.

ASHBURNHAM. A gift of \$50 for the purchase of books has been received from Mr. Irving Smith.

ASHBY. The tasteful and costly building, presented to Ashby by Edwin Chapman, although completed and accepted by the town Dec. 7, 1901, and opened for public use on Jan. 3, 1902, was not formally dedicated until June 17, when the festivities usual at such celebrations were enjoyed by a great throng of citizens and guests. The principal address was made by the Hon. Alfred S. Roe. The Chapman Library is thoroughly fireproof in construction, and its appointments are complete to the most minute detail. The exterior walls are of red pressed brick, with Longmeadow brown stone trimmings. The roof is slated, its

several ridge angles being capped with tiles. In plan the structure is 40 by 50 feet, and there is but one floor above the high basement story. The approach to the arched entrance is by a flight of eight granite steps, flanked by two polished granite columns at the floor level. The spandrels of the arch are beautifully sculptured. The vestibule opens upon a delivery room, 16 by 16 feet, occupying the central portion of the main floor, which is lighted through glass lights in the copper dome. All the finish of this room is of marble, including the delivery desk and arched doorways leading into the reading and art rooms on the right and left. These two rooms, each 13 by 22 feet, are finished in choice curly birch, and have ornate terrazzo floors. Adjoining the reading room is the librarian's office, and from the art room a stone stairway leads to the well-lighted basement, wherein are the usual heating plant, offices, etc. The stack-room occupies the rear of the building, is finished in oak, and contains eight double stacks. The rear basement is wholly above ground, and fitted up for the use of town officers. The donor, a Boston merchant, was born in Cambridgeport, April 17, 1844; but Ashby was his boyhood's home, and has been his summer residence for many years. He was counted in its quota while serving in the First Massachusetts Cavalry during the civil war.

ASHLAND. The need of enlarged quarters for the library is widely felt. The legacy of Ella F. Wiggins, amounting to \$392.34, has been received and deposited in a savings bank for future use, being by the terms of the will to be expended "for the best interest of the library."

ATHOL. The library has received about 500 volumes as a gift from Dr. H. M. Humphrey, being his circulating library. Andrew Carnegie, through the solicitation of a former resident of Athol, offered \$15,000 for a library building, under the usual guarantee of town support, and the gift has been formally accepted.

ATTLEBOROUGH. Boxes of books are sent weekly to six schools in outlying districts, being carried forth and back by the "rural delivery." The children are furnished with a "graded course of reading," and make their selections therefrom; but the parents have become interested, and books for their use are included when called for. Mr. J. L. Sweet has presented to the town a choice lot for a library building, and efforts are being made to raise a building fund.

BARRE. The children's room, which was opened Oct. 15, 1898, continues to retain the interest of the young people, despite the fact that few additions of new books have been made, owing to lack

of funds. The number of children's visits to make use of the reading table in this room during the year 1901 was 2,944. About 800 volumes are shelved in this department.

BEDFORD. Miss Lottie M. Corey, for fourteen years the faithful librarian of the public library, has resigned the position, and is succeeded by Miss Fannie A. Wood.

BELCHERTOWN. The experiment of "open shelves," having been under trial for three months, is highly appreciated by the pupils of the public schools, and has thus far given little trouble.

BELLINGHAM. Delivery stations have been established at North Bellingham and Caryville.

BELMONT. The building presented to Belmont by Henry O. Underwood, as a memorial to his parents, was dedicated on the evening of June 17, Josiah H. Benton, Jr., Esq., delivering the formal address. The donor's father, William J. Underwood, was for more than twenty years chairman of Belmont's library trustees. The structure is fireproof, the floors being of mill construction, and the electric wires conducted through lead pipes. The outer walls are of red brick with stone trimmings. There are two stories above the basement. The main entrance is central, sheltered by a semi-circular projection supported by four Ionic columns. The first floor is occupied by a hallway, the librarian's office, a book room with a two-story stack for 20,000 volumes, the children's room and a capacious reading room. The rooms open for public use are so arranged as to be easily supervised by the librarian, sitting at the delivery desk. On the second floor is a large hall or lecture room, which can, when expedient, be adapted to the uses of a historical museum, or be devoted to additional stacks when need arises, giving, with the reading room shelving, a capacity of 50,000 volumes. In the basement are the boiler room, lavatories, a bicycle room and a smoking-room. This last, a new feature in library plans, is by an ingenious arrangement of mirrors made visible to the librarian at her station on the upper floor, and, except in the license to use tobacco, is subject to the same rules as the general reading room. Its tables are supplied with newspapers and popular periodicals. The building was equipped to the smallest detail by the generous donor, his expenditure being \$50,000. Miss Ada Thurston has been appointed librarian.

BERLIN. The trustees of the Northborough Library have presented 78 of their duplicates to the Berlin Library. The branch established at South Berlin last year is successfully sustained. There is a crying need for more commodious and convenient quarters for the main collection, including a reading room.

BERNARDSTON. The directors and book committee now meet at a stated date monthly, to discuss business matters and select a small list of books for purchase, which plan proves very much more satisfactory than the old method of adding new books two or three times during the year. The librarian writes: "The Western Massachusetts Library Club held a meeting here. It was an inspiration to those interested in our little library, and made us feel that we, although very small, are a part of the great whole."

BLANDFORD. A branch library has been established at North Blandford, and has been well patronized. Mrs. Josephine E. S. Porter of Hartford, Conn., the donor of Blandford's library building, continues her generous interest in the library, contributing annually books of her own selection, history, biography, books of travel, with a few of the best novels. Her gifts are the chief additions to the collection, the town's appropriation being exhausted in the administration.

BOLTON. The Whitney Memorial Library is under roof, and the contract calls for its completion by July 1, 1903. The design is a tasteful one, by Alfred Stone, Esq., of Providence, who gives his services to the town which was his home in boyhood. The outer walls are of field stone with natural face. The street front is ornamented with a decorative gable crowning the central entrance, and two large dormer windows in the roof giving light to the interior. The hallway, 6 by 10 feet, opens upon the central reading and delivery room, 20 by 25 feet in plan, and open to the roof. On the right is the stack-room, and on the left a historical room, 16 by 20 feet. Between the last and the delivery room on either side of the passage are a vault for the town records and the librarian's room, $7\frac{1}{2}$ by $8\frac{1}{2}$ feet. Miss Annie Eliza Whitney of Lancaster has given \$10,000 for the building. The site and the foundations are furnished by the town. For the lot \$700 was paid. It is proposed to use chestnut panelling for interior finish, and to provide fireplaces for ventilation and heating in seasonable weather.

BOSTON. The library expects to receive \$100,000 as a book fund from the estate of Robert C. Billings. In July, 1902, the bindery and printing departments were removed from the central library building to premises near, to provide for the growth of the library. The Anna Ticknor Library of about 2,600 volumes has been received from the Anna Ticknor Library Association. The number of volumes in the library Oct. 1, 1902, was: central library, 650,839; branches, 179,062; total, 829,901, as against a total of 812,264 on Feb. 1, 1902. Since February, 1902, 32

additional library agencies have been established, making the library system comprise 10 branches, 21 delivery stations (11 being reading rooms), 61 schools, 20 institutions, 36 engine houses, — a total of 148, as against 116 in February. A branch finding list of books common to the branches has been printed. The extension of evening hours at the branches from 8 to 9 P.M. was begun in January, 1902. Mr. Whitney has resigned the office of librarian, his resignation to take effect February 1, but will remain in the service of the library. Horace G. Wadlin has been appointed to the position vacated.

BOXBOROUGH. Mrs. Henry L. Priest has been chosen librarian, *vice* Miss Mabel B. Priest, resigned.

BRIDGEWATER. Mrs. Sarah L. Alden has given \$500 to the library, without restrictions as to its use. Other gifts for the increase of library funds have been: \$500 from Samuel P. Gates; \$50 from Miss Cora Thompson; \$11 from Armenian residents; \$142, the proceeds of a "rummage sale," from the King's Daughters. The legacy of Mrs. Hannah Bates, noticed in 1900, \$500 in amount, has been partly used in reorganizing the museum into a combined reference and exhibition room.

BRIMFIELD. The librarian, without assistants and with scant pecuniary means, has perfected the classification of the library, and will prepare a card catalogue by degrees, using the Congressional Library issue as fast as funds will allow. The extension of library privileges to outlying districts has been much increased. Believing in creating a demand where indifference existed, there being no direct means of communication between the centre and West Brimfield, the librarian sent an unasked-for selection of books to the railway station of the latter place, the transportation being by stage to Palmer and thence by a grocery wagon to the destination. The deliveries are now sought for.

BROCKTON. The home circulation for 1902 is 22,000 greater than that of the previous year. Of this increase, 12,000 was due to the school delivery system established last year. The most pressing need of the library is a children's room.

BROOKLINE. Hiller C. Wellman having resigned to accept the position of librarian in the Springfield City Library, Miss Louisa M. Hooper was promoted to the vacancy. A special information desk, to relieve the pressure of work at the delivery desk, has been established. A delivery station in a remote district has recently been organized. The issuing of books from the children's room to those under twelve years of age has during a year's experience proved in every way a satisfactory experiment. The system of admitting assistants as apprentices without pay

for eight months gives promise of great usefulness, both to the library and to those desirous of obtaining permanent positions in library work.

BURLINGTON. The experiment of allowing the public free access to the shelves has been tried, with apparent success. The library being quite near the graded schools, it has been opened for the use of the pupils during the noon intermission on Wednesdays, to their evident enjoyment and advantage.

CAMBRIDGE. The library has been enriched by the gift of a costly collection of works of art, chiefly etchings, from Nathaniel Cushing Nash. Under the will of Lucius R. Paige, D.D., the historian of Cambridge, it has received a collection of letters of local historical interest. A valuable collection of books relating to Mexico and Central America will be added to the library soon by a benefactor who prefers to remain unknown. The stack wing has been extended, doubling its shelf capacity. A recent gift accepted is the sum of \$7,350 from Abigail L. Prentice as a book fund. A suitable space is to be set apart for the purchases made from the income of this fund, to be called the "William E. Saunders Alcove."

CANTON. The splendid library building given to the town by Augustus Hemenway, and described in the last report of the commission, was opened for public use in July last. The Brown charging system has been introduced by the librarian.

CARVER. The citizens of both North Carver and South Carver were during the past year supplied with books by special delivery; in the former case the mail carrier being the messenger, in the latter a public-spirited citizen. The library and the schools have been brought nearer to each other by the assistance of the superintendent of schools.

CHARLEMONT. Nearly 1,900 volumes, mostly of standard authors, have been received from the library of the late Honorable Joseph White of Williamstown, nearly doubling the town's collection.

CHELSEA. A children's room was opened in October, 1901, and is very successful, its usefulness being much enhanced by the regular exhibitions of the Library Art Club.

CHESHIRE. A. L. Brown of New York has added to the library 250 volumes, a part of the collection of his father, Warren Brown, lately deceased, who was a summer resident of Cheshire. Levi J. Fisk, a citizen of the town, has given a case of interesting minerals and curios collected by him in his travels. A fair held by the ladies of Cheshire has added \$75 to the book fund. The superintendent of schools, H. L. Allen, gives in his

report an interesting account of successful endeavor to lead the school children to a proper use of the library.

CHESTER. Miss Gertrude Burcham, who has served as librarian ever since the establishment of the library, has resigned, and Miss Grace Alvord is appointed to succeed her.

CHESTERFIELD. A branch library is supported at West Chesterfield, with a permanent collection of 200 volumes, to which monthly deliveries are made from the town library. Summer visitors to the town make frequent donations of books, and sometimes of small sums of money.

CHICOPEE. The Willimansett branch library has been installed in its new building.

CHILMARK. The library, which has been kept in a store hitherto, is now housed in a large and well-lighted room in the new town hall, and is one of the best equipped in the county. The librarian serves without compensation, and the young ladies of the village take turns in assisting her. A branch has been established at the western end of the town, about 50 books being kept there, which are exchanged at convenient intervals, and distributed through the school children to the families there resident. Many small gifts have been received from summer visitors.

CLINTON. The Carnegie Library is fast approaching completion. The plans are from the office of Winslow & Bigelow, of Boston, the junior member of that firm being a native of Clinton. Mr. Carnegie's gift of \$25,000 and the town's appropriation of \$21,000 will be exhausted in the construction. The town paid \$15,000 for the site, a corner lot 140 by 150 feet fronting upon Walnut Street, and very advantageously situated near the town park and public buildings. The structure is of red brick with Ohio McDermott limestone trimmings, two storied, 44 by 86 feet in plan, of simple classic architecture. The first floor includes the central delivery room, 18 by 34 feet; a reading room on the left of the main entrance, 21 by 40 feet; and on the right the book room; a librarian's room, 10 by 10 feet; and the trustees' office, 11 by 14 feet. From the delivery hall a prominent stairway leads to the upper floor, where are the children's room, 21 by 40 feet; and an art room, 22 by 33 feet. Directly under the main reading room is a newspaper and magazine room in the basement, having a special entrance from Church Street. The rest of the basement is given to the heating plant, lavatories, storage rooms, etc. Wiring for electric lights and piping for gas will be installed. By the will of a prominent citizen, George W. Weeks, who died Oct. 7, 1902, the town will

receive \$15,000 for the library building and site; \$10,000 as a permanent fund, the income of which will be available for the purchase of books of a practical and scientific character; and \$3,000 for furnishing the children's room with books, periodicals and pictures.

COLRAIN. Over 100 volumes have been given to the library by anonymous friends. Four branches are now sustained, two having recently been established.

COTTAGE CITY. The library acknowledges the receipt of 100 volumes from Henry F. King of Newton.

DANVERS. George Augustus Peabody has added to the non-circulating collection in the children's room about 100 volumes. On the anniversaries of noted events and the birthdays of famous characters appropriate pictures are displayed, and awaken much interest. For the most part, Perry pictures mounted at the library have been used. Colored pictures of our native birds have also been mounted and seasonably exhibited. A few open shelves in the delivery room are devoted to the latest additions to the library; but with them are displayed many older books, which are changed often, with a view to call the public attention in time to all the rich stores of literature possessed by the institute.

DARTMOUTH. A branch library has been established at North Dartmouth, and the town appropriation has been generously increased, being now \$250 for the town library and \$150 for the Southworth Library at South Dartmouth. The latter has no endowment, and depends upon generous friends for much of its increase. One hundred and thirty-three books were added by gift during the past year, besides the usual annual contribution by a lady friend of the "Atlantic," "Century," "Harper's," "Scribner's" and "St. Nicholas" magazines, the "Youth's Companion" and "Harper's Weekly."

DEERFIELD. The Library of the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association has outgrown its one capacious room, and this will be enlarged the coming spring. Additions of rare old as well as new books are constantly coming in, chiefly by gift or exchange.

DOUGLAS. A gentleman whose name is not given publicly has offered \$25,000 for the erection of a library building at East Douglas.

DRACUT. The Varnum Library Society of Pawtucketville, Lowell, having abandoned the purpose of its organization, has voted to the Dracut Public Library all its personal property, including about 400 bound volumes, several years' issues of the most popular magazines, furniture, and nearly \$200 in money.

DUXBURY. William J. Wright will give the town a brick building for library purposes, to be erected upon the lot adjoining that occupied by the present library building, which is a wooden dwelling house presented to Duxbury in 1889 by Mrs. George W. Wright. The premises vacated will be used for town offices.

EAST BRIDGEWATER. Mrs. Nancy Rust bequeathed \$2,000 to the public library as a fund to be known by her name, the income of which shall be used for the purchase of books.

EASTON. The Ames Free Library makes use of the cards furnished by the Congressional Library. It supports five weekly deliveries, accommodating all outlying districts. The people have been enticed to read the best of old fiction upon the shelves by circulating a printed list of the best novels of famous authors.

EDGARTOWN. Andrew Carnegie has offered \$4,000 for a library building, with the usual condition of guaranteed perpetual support. Some trouble is experienced in the selection of a site satisfactory to all.

ENFIELD. The room in the town hall given to library uses is now utterly inadequate for the purpose, and the demand for more generous accommodations is pressing upon public attention.

ERVING. A gift of 75 volumes has been received from the City Library Association of Springfield.

EVERETT. The library has at last received the \$500 willed to it by George N. Benedict, who died in 1888. Payment has been suspended by litigation until recently.

FAIRHAVEN. A children's room has been opened, with a "library hostess." The Newark charging system has been adopted, using a "permanent book card in book pocket, replaced when out by reader's card, which is always in reader's possession."

FALMOUTH. The town library has been classified by the decimal system, a card catalogue has been begun, and sundry improvements in methods of administration have been introduced. The Free Library at West Falmouth has for the past two years received a special appropriation and a share of the refunded dog tax from the town, the latter being divided between the two libraries, in proportion to the number of volumes owned. The West Falmouth Library is governed by an association, but is required to submit for the approval of the town's library trustees lists of the books to be bought with the town's appropriations. D. Wheeler Swift, the chief benefactor of this library, continues his generous interest in it, his latest gift being a convenient case for the display of current periodicals.

FITCHBURG. George E. Nutting has been promoted to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Librarian Prescott C. Rice. A children's room was opened in October, 1899. A modification of the charging system has been introduced, by stamping upon the borrower's cards the date when the book is to be returned, instead of the date of loan. Co-operation with the superintendent and teachers of schools in the distribution of books among the pupils, and in leading them to a greater use of library privileges, has been carried on with good success. The use of the catalogue cards issued from the Congressional Library was begun in November, 1901, "with unqualified success." Great use is made of bulletin boards, both for illustrating events of local popular interest, historic anniversaries, etc., and for calling attention to the varied resources of the library.

GREAT BARRINGTON. The library shows enlarged usefulness by the steady increase in the circulation of books for home use. This year's report will claim a gain of at least 800 volumes over last year's circulation. A new stack room, 12 by 14 feet, has been constructed. An entertainment course for the benefit of the library has been again arranged, from which about \$400 will probably be realized for purchase of books.

GREENFIELD. Several months after the loss by sudden death of Miss Emma W. Tyler, who for fourteen years was the efficient librarian of the Greenfield Public Library, Miss May Ashley of Springfield was appointed to the vacancy. In her report, March 1, 1902, she pleads eloquently for a new library building, to take the place of the present narrow, crowded, ill-lighted and poorly ventilated quarters. There has been introduced the scheme of loaning popular books from a "duplicate collection" for one cent per day's use. The problem of extending library privileges more freely to the outlying districts is met by sending to each of the schools 30 or more books selected for family use. These are exchanged every ten days, the needful transportation being furnished through the courtesy of the supervisor of drawing.

HADLEY. The new library building is completed, and will be immediately opened for public use. It stands upon a corner lot, opposite the town hall. The ground plan is about 40 by 60 feet, and the total cost of building and lot was about \$9,000. The walls are of red brick with trimmings of stone and terra cotta, and colonial porches of wood shelter the two entrances. Upon the main floor, besides a large room which contains the shelving for books and serves as a reading room, there is a small apartment which is intended for a historical museum. The upper

story is a hall large enough to seat 200 persons, lighted from above. Its walls are of burlap, adapted for the display of pictures. Hereafter it is proposed to open the library two more evenings weekly, and on Sunday afternoons. It will be lighted from the town's newly installed acetylene gas plant. Hadley owes this long-needed home for its library largely to the generosity of John Dwight of New York City, a descendant of one of the town's founders. It is to bear the name chosen by him, "The Goodwin Memorial Library." His gift, offered in August, 1900, was the sum of \$4,000, contingent upon the raising of a like amount by the townspeople and their friends.

HANCOCK. A branch library has been established in the north part of the town, and is well patronized.

HANOVER. The town at its March meeting made appropriation for the support of five distributing stations, which are now in successful use.

HARVARD. By the will of the late Warren Hapgood of Boston, a native of Harvard, the town receives \$40,000. Half of this is made available for the building of an annex to the present library building, to which Mr. Hapgood was a generous contributor; the other \$20,000 will constitute a fund for equipment and support. The bequest is somewhat loaded with conditions, requiring the perpetual preservation and care, in the annex, of Mr. Hapgood's ornithological and other collections, pictures, books, etc. The town has formally accepted the legacy, and work upon the addition is well under way. It will be known as the Hapgood Memorial. Under the will of Andrew Fairbank, his bequest to the Public Library, amounting to \$1,000, establishes a permanent fund, the income from which may be used for current expenses, for books, or for the care and improvement of the building and grounds.

HAVERHILL. The library has complete collections of Perry, Brown and Cosmos pictures, Harper's "black and white" prints, Elson prints and "masters in art," hundreds of colored pictures of birds and flowers, pictures of places, and about 1,200 Soule photographs, all carefully mounted on cards 11 by 14 and 14 by 18 inches, arranged in cabinets in a classified order. These pictures are loaned to anybody, but particularly to teachers and study clubs, in any number, and may be kept as long as a book. The average cost of the pictures was about three cents apiece, the mounts three cents, and the mounting was mostly done by library assistants.

HAWLEY. The library has received about 700 volumes from the old Conway Library, being a gift from Marshall Field of Chicago.

- HEATH. Over 500 volumes have been added to the library by gift during the past year, including some valuable books of reference, requiring an increase of shelving capacity.
- HOLLISTON. Andrew Carnegie has offered the town \$10,000 for a library building, on condition that the town will appropriate \$1,000 per year for the support of the library. The late Mrs. F. G. Burnap bequeathed to the town a site for a library building.
- HOLYOKE. The new library building was transferred to the Library Association, without formal ceremony, on Jan. 18, 1902. Its total cost was \$96,000, of which \$89,950 was raised by public subscription.
- HOPEDALE. The librarian notes the evident value in this manufacturing community of three new details of administration: open shelves and uncovered books, the second or non-fiction card, and the Sunday opening of the reading room.
- HUBBARDSTON. An increasing call for books in aid of nature study is observed. This has been fostered by the gift of 50 or more pictures of birds with fisher's net and hangers whereby to display them, presented to the library by a lady, a niece of Jonas G. Clark, to whom Hubbardston owes its library building.
- HUNTINGTON. A branch library has been opened at Huntington Hill. A few quiet games have been introduced in the main library, as an added inducement to bring in the boys from the street, and with quite good success.
- HYDE PARK. A bronze tablet suitably inscribed has been placed in the delivery room as a memorial to Mary A. Hawley, deceased, for twenty years assistant librarian: "Erected by patrons of the library whose love and respect she won by her uniform courtesy and helpfulness."
- LANCASTER. Forty-seven volumes of the Hakluyt Society's publications have been given to the library by Colonel John E. Thayer. The cards issued from the Congressional Library are used so far as available for accessions.
- LAWRENCE. Frederic H. Hedge, Jr., resigned Jan. 1, 1901, the position of librarian, which he had held twenty-seven years. He was succeeded by William A. Walsh. Delivery stations have been opened on Prospect Hill and Tower Hill.
- LEE. The library has received, through the influence of Peter De Baun, a citizen of Lee, the gift of 250 volumes from the Mechanics Institute of New York. For the last six months the library has been open every afternoon and evening, instead of twice a week as heretofore. This change has been marked by a great increase in the circulation for home use.

LEICESTER. Mrs. Eliza Gilmore has presented to the library a portrait of Rev. Samuel May,—its greatest benefactor,—together with the sum of \$500 to provide a suitable frame for the picture, and to increase the fund bequeathed to the library by Mary E. Joslin, the artist of the portrait. The engine house at Greenville, having been suitably fitted for library uses by the trustee of the Ephraim Copeland Memorial Fund, was formally transferred to the library trustees, with the residuary sum of \$2,200, in October, 1901, establishing the Copeland Library, in pursuance of the court's decree and the town's vote. By terms of the decree \$2,000 constitutes a permanent fund, the income of which is to be used for current expenses; \$200 will be invested until with accumulated interest it amounts to \$1,000, when it may be used for a building, if needed.

LEOMINSTER. There have been registered over 1,200 children, all between the third grade and the high school. In the book case placed outside of the stacks to which the public has free access are shelves filled with healthful literature suited to the needs of children. This feature has turned the attention of the young people entirely away from Oliver Optic, and the demand for Alger and Henty is not one-half what it was formerly.

LEVERETT. Delivery stations are supported at East Leverett, North Leverett and Hillsborough, 50 volumes being placed in each of these villages, and exchanged from time to time.

LEXINGTON. Beginning with September, the Cary Library has opened its doors on Sundays from 2.30 to 5.30 P.M. for reading-room privileges only.

LEYDEN. Over 200 volumes were added to the library by the gift of Mrs. Elijah Brown of New York City.

LITTLETON. Mr. E. M. Raymond of Charlestown has presented to the library Gilbert Stuart's painting, called "The Market Girl," and the most prominent available wall space has been assigned to this valuable gift.

LONGMEADOW. This little town has increased its appropriation from \$100 to \$150, in addition to the refunded dog tax, and small contributions for book purchase have been received from various persons. Special efforts are made to meet the needs of the teachers and pupils in the public schools. The library has been removed from cramped quarters to a spacious room in a vacant school building, for which suitable furnishings have been provided by generous citizens.

LYNN. The special collection of local history and genealogy, made up of clippings from current periodicals, etc., now comprises 80 volumes, and, being well indexed, is of great value and interest. The system of open shelves has been considerably extended.

LYNNFIELD. The library has received a legacy of \$1,000 from the late Mary U. Nash.

MALDEN. Mrs. L. S. Hoyle bequeathed \$8,000 to the public library, establishing a permanent fund to be known as "The Syfferman Memorial Fund." Commenting upon a loss of 18 volumes in the children's room, the trustees say: "The saving of a few dollars in the salaries of attendants and the fancied convenience of the public, which are the stock arguments of the advocates of open shelves, are of less importance than the nursing of dishonesty by favorable opportunities in the alcoves of a public library."

MANCHESTER. Among the gifts of the year to the library have been a bust of Daniel Webster, a portrait of Cyrus A. Bartol, D.D., and 100 bound volumes, many of which are costly and valuable. For the young people's use a special collection of 200 juveniles is placed upon open shelves near the delivery desk.

MARLBOROUGH. A lot valued at \$6,000 has been presented to the city and adopted as the site for the new library building, for which Andrew Carnegie has given \$30,000. The donors are John A. Frye and the Hon. S. Herbert Howe. Local donations to the building fund now amount to about \$3,000. A committee is considering plans preparatory to beginning the foundations early in the coming spring. The city hall was burned on the night of Dec. 25, 1902, and with it the library, about 20,000 volumes.

MATTAPOISETT. At the February town meeting, George H. Purring-ton, Jr., a citizen of Mattapoisett, offered \$10,000 to the town for a library building. Samuel D. Warren has offered a suitable site, provided the plan adopted is acceptable to him, and a committee is now considering plans submitted by Ward P. Delano, a Worcester architect.

MEDFORD. Once a week the children's librarian reads to such young people as care to listen, — something of more permanent value than they would be likely to select if the choice were left to them. The results of this experiment have been quite gratifying. The placing of dissected maps and Chinese puzzle blocks upon the tables of the children's room not only has had a quieting effect upon a restless element which it is very desirable to entice from the temptations of the street, but these games prove real educators and civilizers, where books alone might not offer sufficient attractions. The children are delighted with them, and often fifty or more can be seen in one small room busily and happily employed.

MEDWAY. The five years' agreement made in 1897, whereby, in consideration of receiving one-fourth of the town's annual appropriation for library purposes, the Dean Library Association opened its library free of charge to the citizens of Medway, expired in 1902. This library will continue free to the town's people as well as to stockholders.

MELROSE. Plans for the new public library building have been accepted, and work upon it will begin early in the spring. In addition to the \$25,000 given by Andrew Carnegie, \$1,500 was given by A. P. Jones, \$1,000 by Daniel Russell, \$1,000 by Moses Page, \$1,000 by S. S. Houghton. Whatever further sums may be contributed will be used for interior ornament and furnishing. The building will be two-storied, with a basement, and an ell at the rear for the stack room. Provision will be made for an art room. The site chosen is upon Emerson Street.

MERRIMAC. By the will of the late James Whittier the library trustees came into possession of a dwelling house, the rent of which will be available for the purchase of books.

MIDDLEBOROUGH. Work upon the Thomas S. Peirce Library building at Middleborough has been interrupted by labor troubles, and probably will not be renewed until the opening of spring. The foundation is completed, and considerable material for construction is delivered. The lot, 150 feet square, has been provided by the trustees of the estate from the Peirce property. The main building, 45 by 75 feet, and two-storied, will be of slow-burning construction, the walls being of pink brick with gray terra-cotta trimmings. The roof will be of slate. The architectural details are in Greek Ionic style. The stack will occupy a fireproof ell at the rear, 30 by 40 feet. By the entrance under a central pediment dignified by two massive Ionic columns supporting it, the vestibule is entered, and opens upon the delivery hall, which will be ornate with coffered ceiling and Corinthian pilasters. On the right will be the general reading room, and on the left a children's room, each with wall shelving for books of reference. The framing of the floor above will form the ceiling of these rooms. The librarian's office opens from near the centrally placed delivery desk, and has a small staircase leading to the upper floors. The stack is to be of iron with glass floors, arranged in three low stories, one being above and one below the delivery level. A prominent staircase will lead from the delivery hall to a hall for art exhibition; and entered from this are a trustees' room, a Peirce memorial room,

and other rooms appropriate for uses which may arise hereafter. The basement will be provided with all the usual conveniences and plants. Heating will be effected by both direct and indirect steam radiators, and lighting will be by both electricity and gas. Frederic N. Reed of New York is the architect, W. H. Southworth, Joseph E. Beals and Dr. E. S. Hathaway the building committee. The library will cost \$50,000, and the remaining \$50,000 of the Peirce bequest will constitute a permanent book fund.

MILTON. At the March town meeting \$50,000 was appropriated for a new library building. Plans have been selected, a site has been given by several citizens, and work upon the foundations begun. A plan of house-to-house delivery for the west end of the town was inaugurated as an experiment in January, 1902. Every Thursday a messenger is employed from 8.30 A.M. to 3.30 P.M. in delivering and collecting books, messages, etc., for which service he is paid \$5, the expense being met in part by the bequest of Governor Wolcott. The number of borrowers at the first delivery was 23, and there has been a steady increase, until now the average is about 80. The cost of delivery is therefore about seven cents per volume. Three reading rooms, at East Milton, Mattapan and Russell, are now supported. James M. Barnes has added to the library over 50 volumes of permanent value, and John Willard has given about 100 colored photographs of scenes in Japan.

MONROE. To better accommodate all sections of the town, the library has been divided into two equal collections of books, one being kept in each of the two villages.

MONTAGUE. The superintendent of the schools has given each teacher a list of books to be found in the library suited for the use of the grade of pupils she has in charge, and each of these pupils is required to read a certain number of the books during the term. The teachers have free access to the shelves, and assume responsibility for books borrowed for the schools.

MONTEREY. The library, nearly wrecked by the cloudburst of August, 1901, has been put in good condition again.

MOUNT WASHINGTON. The library, heretofore kept in the meeting-house, an out-of-the-way location, has been divided into two equal portions and shelved in the two schoolhouses, to be under the care of the teachers during the school terms, and open to the public in vacations as formerly on Sundays.

NATICK. The Bacon Free Library has received from the estate of H. H. Hunnewell, late of Wellesley, three pieces of bronze statuary and a valuable bronze mantel clock, now decorative

features of the reading room. Miss Nellie L. Fox, librarian of the Morse Institute for the past twelve years, gave up her position before her marriage, and her assistant, Miss Mira R. Partridge, has been promoted to the vacancy. The Young People's Library, established through the generosity of John O. Wilson, proves an exceedingly popular department of the institute.

NEW BEDFORD. There being no space available for a children's room in the library building, a children's corner has been improvised and suitably equipped. A friend has given a selection of juveniles, "books for mothers to read to their children," which finds a field of usefulness. Two boys' clubs are utilized as distributing stations, 50 books being sent them at stated intervals, and loaned under the direction of the responsible heads of the clubs. A "Tabard Inn station" has been established in the reading room, its books going into free circulation under the same regulations as apply to those upon the library shelves. A rental of \$250 per year is paid for the monthly service of 250 volumes. Three months' trial proves this innovation popular and on the whole satisfactory, relieving somewhat the pressure for current fiction and much-sought-for new books. Photographs are at all times on exhibition, the selection being changed every Saturday, and attention paid to systematic grouping and sequence.

NEW MARLBOROUGH. The library in this town was established in 1901, by aid of the State's gift of \$100 worth of books, the town's appropriation being \$25. There are five villages in New Marlborough, separated three or more miles from each other. The books collected, now over 500 volumes, are distributed to the villages, five cases having being made for the purpose, and a trustworthy and interested person selected for the charge of each. Some needed supplies and 15 volumes were bought by the proceeds of an entertainment given by the young men of the town, and the Woman's Education Association, through Miss Alice G. Chandler, has given generous aid.

NEW SALEM. Three branch libraries have been established.

NORTH ADAMS. From the librarian's report for 1901 we glean the following: The children's reading room, opened the past year, has proved attractive and helpful. "The registration shows not only that a great many different children used the room, but also that it was most popular with those who most needed the influence of its beautiful books and pictures." "To arouse an interest in nature study, talks were given in the children's room on birds and wild flowers by teachers of the public schools. These talks were illustrated by books, colored pictures, and by

specimens of the flowers themselves. They were well attended, many of the children remaining to ask questions and to examine more closely the pictures and flowers." A beginning has been made "of teaching the high school scholars, by test questions, how to use the library, and especially its reference books, in writing their essays." It is hoped to carry the same instruction with the necessary modifications into the higher grade of grammar schools. It is a decided change to turn from the grown-up person who must have one of the season's "best-selling" books right away, to the child who wishes "quite a joyful book;" or the fourteen-year-old boy, who insists, even when laughed at, on a "love story," and a love story with a happy ending; or the little girl who has to be careful what she reads, for fear of "seeing things at night." This latter might be a warning to librarians not to put mystery stories in select lists of the best reading without some hint that they are "loaded." Three new branches have been established, at Beaver, Houghtonville and Braytonville.

NORTHAMPTON. "In the last decade or two a practice has grown up among American libraries of lending books to one another for the use of scholars, which, if it increases at its present rate and is fostered by the much-desired cheap library postage, will end in making all the books in the United States accessible for investigation everywhere. Of this system the Forbes Library has availed itself frequently for the benefit of its patrons, and it has returned these favors, though not to its benefactors, by lending freely outside of the city whenever called upon; 260 persons are now borrowers on its inter-library loan register. Books and photographs go in all directions, and the warm thanks received show that the practice is justified by the good it does."

NORTH ANDOVER. The library has received \$100 from Miss C. A. French.

NORTH ATTLEBOROUGH. Mrs. H. F. Barrows, Jr., presented to the library, in memory of her daughter, a beautiful collection of children's books, to be known as the "Maude Barrows Memorial." This occupies special shelves in the children's alcove. A collection of about 30 books upon music and musicians has been added by gift of "The Orpheus," a ladies' society. Mrs. Edward I. Richards' gift of cork carpeting for the floor is highly appreciated by all who use the reading-room.

NORTHBOROUGH. Cyrus Gale, the donor of Northborough's beautiful library building, has given \$500 for the publication of finding lists.

NORTHBRIDGE. The villages of Rockdale, Linwood and Northbridge Center are supplied with books from the Whitinsville Social Library by carrier. For this service the town appropriates \$150.

NORTHFIELD. The donor of Northfield's beautiful library building, E. M. Dickinson, continues his interest in the library as his annual gifts attest. The past year he has given it a collection of coins with case, an original petition to King George, and sundry other interesting articles for the museum, which is gradually growing in attraction and value.

NORTH READING. The library has been reclassified. It has been enlarged by many gifts of books, and has received a portrait of Dr. George Frederick Root, the noted musician and composer, whose boyhood was spent in this town.

OXFORD. Plans for a library building, for which three years ago Charles Larned of Boston offered to defray two-thirds of the cost, are under consideration, and a site has been selected.

PITTSFIELD. The Berkshire Athenæum has received from unnamed friends the two magnificent volumes of "The Birds and Eggs of Ohio," the bookseller's price of which is \$500. The crowded condition of the museum suggests consideration of the advisability of transferring its collections at an early day to the new Museum of Art and Natural History, soon to be established by Zenas Crane. The Athenæum has engaged the service of the Tabard Inn Library, at a yearly rental of \$150. A large revolving bookcase is stationed near the delivery table, and furnished with 125 books monthly if required. At the close of each month such of the volumes as are not desired longer are returned to Philadelphia and exchanged for others, the Tabard Inn Association paying all expenses. The books are loaned for one week only, but in other respects are as free to the public as those in the stacks. This scheme frees the library from the cost of buying books to satisfy a temporary demand, and is proving so successful and popular a feature that the librarian, H. H. Ballard, proposes an increase of the service to 250 books per month. A "quarterly bulletin," giving accessions and other library news, is issued, the cost of which is met by receipts from advertisements.

PLYMOUTH. The Dewey system of classification and the Brown charging system have been introduced. A gift of \$50 has been received from John Bartlett of Cambridge for the purchase of current literature, and the late Mrs. Lucy J. Parker of Boston bequeathed her books, about 3,000 volumes, to the library. In June the library was removed from the cramped and dingy quar-

ters which had long been leased for it to the beautiful and commodious new building. This was given to the Plymouth Public Library by Thomas Russell, Lydia G. R. Allen and Marion R. Townsend, in memory of their father and mother, the late William Goodwin Russell and Mary Ellen Russell, both natives of Plymouth. It is about 60 feet front by 40 feet in depth, faces North Street, and forms the base of a terrace at the sides of which are low brick walls; and in front on the street is a row of venerable linden trees. The outer walls are of a warm gray brick, with Indiana sandstone trimmings. It is a one-story building, and the architecture is of a classical type. The interior is practically one large, high room, the stack on the left being separated from the reading room on the right by large pillars, between which is the librarian's desk. There is a small librarian's room formed with a bow at the rear, with a similar room above, occupied by a collection of 4,000 mounted photographs of the masterpieces of Europe owned by the library. The cost of the building was about \$25,000. The architects were Everett & Mead of Boston.

PLYMPTON. The local association, which has for several years been soliciting funds for a library building, has selected plans, begun foundations, and will enter upon construction in the coming spring. A gift of \$3,000 and the contribution of \$1,200 by the Village Improvement Society has forwarded the work of the association.

PRESCOTT. One branch library has been opened, and another in an outlying district is contemplated.

QUINCY. Albert Crane has purchased the French homestead, adjoining the library lot, for presentation to the city. The house has been removed, and the land will be suitably graded so as to much increase the area and attractiveness of the library grounds.

RANDOLPH. A well-selected collection of books in the German and French languages, about 250 volumes in all, has been added to the library. A lecture room and an art department have also been opened.

READING. Andrew Carnegie has offered the town \$12,500, upon the usual conditions for the generous and perpetual support of the library.

REVERE. The new library building will probably be completed in the spring of 1903. It is located upon the corner of Beach and Library streets, the lot having been purchased for this purpose in 1896. The cost of the construction is met chiefly by the gift of \$20,000 from Andrew Carnegie, offered in October, 1901, provided that a site should be furnished by the town and an

annual appropriation of at least \$2,000 guaranteed. There is also available the fund of \$3,000, raised some years ago by the Revere Women's Club for library uses; and the legacy of the late S. Augustus Hall, amounting to \$1,500, will be used in finishing and furnishing the reading room. The building is from the design of S. Adams Webber, of red brick with sandstone and gray brick trimmings, 82 by 61 feet in plan. The main structure is 62 by 42 feet and the stack room 18 by 38 feet, having a capacity for 30,000 volumes. The main floor is practically one hall, 14 feet in height, 80 by 19 feet; but divided into a children's room, 19 by 30 feet; a general reading room, 19 by 30 feet; and the delivery room, 18 by 18 feet. The last is open to the dome 30 feet above the floor. The second story will be adapted for a historical room.

RICHMOND. The library has been removed to quarters more centrally located and commodious in the house of Franklin Barnes, Jr., and Mrs. Barnes has been appointed librarian. This change seems to promise growth in the library and much greater usefulness. New shelving has made systematic classification possible. Many choice books have been added by gifts. The public now have access to the shelves every week-day afternoon and evening, and the six public schools serve as distributing stations so far as is possible.

ROCHESTER. A branch has recently been opened at North Rochester. Books are also occasionally delivered free at East Rochester and Pierceville. The permanent fund of the library has been raised to \$1,000 by the gift of \$500 from Mrs. Elizabeth G. Leonard, recently deceased. At her death the library inherited her private library of about 400 volumes, a large statue, "Hide and seek," etc.

RUSSELL. The library has been removed from a private residence to a public building, and a reading room opened. It is planned to establish a second branch of the library at the mill village, the paper company agreeing to furnish a room lighted and heated for its use.

SALEM. By the will of Captain W. J. Cheever, late of North Andover, filed Aug. 9, 1902, \$5,000 is given to the Salem Public Library and \$20,000 to the Essex Institute.

SHERBORN. Additional shelving becoming a necessity, it was decided to depart from the usual custom of building permanent tiers of shelves, and boxes were ordered and made at a factory near by, costing two or three cents per volume capacity. These form a sort of "elastic cabinet" the units of which are interchangeable or removable at pleasure.

SHREWSBURY. The new library building approaches completion. It is a two-story structure, of brick with limestone trimmings above a granite base. Jubal Howe, to whose munificence the town owes this benefaction, was born in Shrewsbury, Dec. 27, 1793, but made his fortune in Boston in business as a jeweller, and became a resident of Newton. He died Feb. 2, 1874, leaving his estate to his only daughter for life, and making the town of Shrewsbury residuary legatee. She died in 1898, and the amount originally accruing to the town, \$41,000, has increased to over \$51,000; \$20,000 of this will be reserved as a fund for library support, and the remainder expended for the building and its furnishing. The ground plan is 56 by 38 feet, with a rear wing for stack 36 feet square.

SHUTESBURY. The sum of \$1,580 has been received as principal and interest of the legacy of Mirick N. Spear, late of Amherst.

SOMERVILLE. With the year began the experiment of giving the public free access "to all its books that are available to card-holders." Sunday-schools are given the privilege of borrowing books to the number of 100,—“week books” excepted. A special school librarian now devotes her whole time to school service, visiting and consulting with the teachers, addressing the scholars, selecting books for the school libraries, and giving instruction in the best use of reference books, etc. The system of house-to-house delivery of books by boy carriers is continued, and works well in the outlying districts of the city. The boys receive two cents per volume from the borrower, obtaining and returning the books. The cards issued by the librarian of the Congressional Library are secured so far as available.

SOUTHAMPTON. By the will of Mrs. Phebe T. Sheldon, late of Southampton, the Free Public Library will receive a bequest of \$1,000.

SOUTHBRIDGE. The offer of Andrew Carnegie to give \$20,000 for a library building was declined by the citizens of Southbridge at a town meeting in April, with a vote expressing due appreciation of his generosity. This action resulted from the desire of Jacob Edwards, a wealthy manufacturer of Boston and a native of Southbridge, to bestow upon the town a library building completely equipped, including its site. He has long had this proposition in mind, and at least \$50,000 is the sum named as his probable expenditure. There has been unexpected delay in the selection of the site.

SOUTH HADLEY. William H. Gaylord of South Hadley, who presented the soldiers' monument to the town several years ago, has given

\$25,000 for a library building at South Hadley Centre. The gift was contingent upon the location of the building upon a site owned by a Village Cemetery Association, and has been accepted by a chartered society, which will be known as the Gaylord Memorial Association. The foundations of the edifice have been laid, and the construction will go forward as fast as the weather will allow. The library will be under the management of the association, but free to all citizens of the town. Mr. Gaylord also will give \$10,000 as a permanent fund, the income of which is to be used for the purchase of books.

SPRINGFIELD. Charles M. Kirkman, late of Springfield, bequeathed to the City Library Association \$10,000, half of which is devoted to beautifying the library grounds and half to the purchase of books. John Cotton Dana, after holding the position of librarian for four years, resigned on Dec. 3, 1901, to accept the same position in the Free Public Library at Newark, N. J. Hiller C. Wellman, librarian at Brookline, was chosen to fill the vacancy, and entered upon his new duties early in 1902. A branch was opened at Indian Orchard Dec. 16, 1901, various citizens and corporations contributing the cost of rent, fuel, lights, etc. The delivery of books to the homes of borrowers, after adequate trial, seems not altogether a success, but is continued as a private enterprise, under library supervision, the messenger paying all expenses and receiving all fees. He takes with him on his circuit a travelling library of 30 or more attractive books, from which his patrons may select if they fail to receive the volume applied for, or are disappointed with it when delivered. A bequest of \$500, the income of which is to be used for buying works upon dental science, has been received from the estate of Dr. J. Searle Hurlbut.

STOCKBRIDGE. Four thousand dollars have been appropriated by the town for improvements in the library.

STOUGHTON. The trustees of the Stoughton Public Library have received an offer from a former resident of the town of a library building to cost \$25,000, if the town will purchase a suitable lot and agree to maintain a room in the building for the use of the historical society. Mr. Carnegie was appealed to about a year ago to contribute a library building to the town, but he is not the donor. It is made a condition that the giver's name shall not be revealed by the trustees. The public library is at present in the town hall, and has outgrown its quarters.

SUNDERLAND. In December, 1901, the library received \$500 to establish a book fund, from Henry W. Taft, Esq., a trustee of the Berkshire Athenæum, and resident of Pittsfield.

TAUNTON. On May 8 a communication was received by the city council from Andrew Carnegie, offering \$60,000 for a public library, upon condition that a suitable site should be furnished, and the annual appropriation of \$6,000 for library support should be guaranteed. The offer was formally accepted, and a site has been selected.

TEMPLETON. There are three villages in this town, severally two, three and four miles from the central library. Every week a bundle of books is sent to each of these villages, so that the residents are nearly as well served as those who live near the library. Magazines are placed in circulation under the same regulations as other books.

TOWNSEND. A free delivery station has been established at West Townsend, through the generous support extended by Mrs. Charles S. Homer of New York City. A marble bas-relief medallion of Longfellow has been received from E. M. Raymond of Charlestown.

UXBRIDGE. Work with the schools has been rather more extensive than usual. It has been found that lists of interesting books, made up by the librarian and the superintendent of schools jointly, have been very useful in bringing new youthful borrowers to the library. The lists are limited, and each pupil is expected to read at least one book of the list appropriate to his grade. The selection considers attractiveness as well as healthful quality of literature, in the especial hope of enticing the children of a large foreign population into the habit of reading. Mrs. Sarah L. Macomber, who died four years ago, willed to the trustees of the library \$1,000, "to use for the benefit and assistance of worthy young persons struggling to obtain an education, either by free public lectures or otherwise as shall seem to them wise, the same to be thus used and expended within five years from her death." The estate has but recently been settled, and the bequest has dwindled to \$750, which will probably be expended the coming year for lectures and books.

WALPOLE. In 1896 the sum of \$5,000 was received from the estate of Hon. Francis W. Bird, and placed at interest as a building fund. Last year Andrew Carnegie offered the town \$15,000 for a library building, which was accepted, and the usual guarantee of support voted. The sum of about \$21,000 being thus available, and a prominent site at the corner of Lewis Avenue and Common Street having been given for the purpose by Charles S. Bird, a son of the earlier benefactor, plans were perfected and construction begun in the spring of 1902. The building is of

red brick with Indiana lime-stone trimmings, one-storied, and classic in style, based upon a granite foundation. The roof is of slate, with copper cornices. The interior arrangement and finish conform to modern models, save in one particular. A novel feature is the separation of the stack from the other part of the structure by a fireproof screen, which can be drawn up and down like a curtain.

WALTHAM. The family of Gen. Nathaniel P. Banks has presented his portrait to the library. A reference room has been established, furnished with shelves for art books and wall space for the exhibition of pictures. A children's room has also been provided, and supplied with juvenile literature and bulletin boards, upon which timely lists, etc., have been displayed on holidays and other dates of popular interest.

WARREN. A fine collection of our native birds has come to the library as a legacy from Mrs. Arvilla E. Elwell.

WATERTOWN. The annex to the library, built about two years ago, has been furnished throughout. The principal room is called Hunnewell Hall, and is used as a reference and reading room. It has been tastefully and substantially fitted up for this use, and supplied with a large and choice collection of books. By request of the generous benefactor, H. H. Hunnewell, a bronze tablet to the memory of Dr. Walter Hunnewell, the noted Watertown physician, who died at the age of eighty-seven in 1855, holds prominent place upon its wall. The room beneath this, of the same size, 30 by 40 feet, is called the Pratt reference room. This is similarly furnished with oak wall cases, tables, chairs, etc., and with a collection of books upon sociology and the useful arts in all their departments. The sons of Charles Pratt, founder of Pratt Institute at Brooklyn, N. Y., provided for the new fittings of this room. The expenditure for furnishing these rooms, for the new library bureau stack, etc., has been over \$12,000, of which the town's appropriation was \$8,500. The reclassification of the books by the Cutter system is near completion, and has been continued without inconvenience to book borrowers. "The much-dreaded mass of public documents, which many librarians push into their attics or basements, become a delight and a source of useful information when arranged in order, and brought out in the card index by subjects and authors." The children's room is small, but proves a very useful department; and co-operation with the schools has developed new activity through the helpful energy of the school superintendent.

WAYLAND. Mrs. Sarah E. Heard, for more than sixteen years the faithful and efficient librarian of Wayland Public Library, resigned in July, 1901, and Everett Small has succeeded her in that position.

WEBSTER. The library has been removed to new quarters, rented on the second floor of Columbia block, where it finds some improvement in space and light.

WENDELL. A branch has been started at the village of Farley, which lies partly in Wendell and partly in Erving. About 40 duplicate volumes were given as a foundation library, and as many more are loaned as needful. Gifts of a desk, chair, card cabinet with cards, etc., have been received; also 428 volumes from Marshall Field of Chicago, being a part of the old library of Conway. The room in the town hall is now too small for this growing and very useful library, and it deserves a building of its own.

WESTBOROUGH. The late Ellen E. Bixby, a native and life-long resident of Westborough, made the town her residuary legatee. The assets from this bequest may reach the sum of \$3,000, and will be expended "in such manner as the trustees of the library may determine." It will probably be added to the building fund, which now amounts to nearly \$10,000.

WEST BOYLSTON. In the new town hall generous provision is to be made for the library, and it is expected the rooms will be ready for occupancy in the spring of 1903. Miss Edna C. Baldwin became librarian September 1, Miss Susie E. Jewell having resigned.

WESTFIELD. The funds of the Athenæum have been increased by the receipt of \$5,000, the legacy of Addison C. Rand, a native of Westfield.

WESTFORD. The library has been reclassified, and furnished with a card catalogue and printed finding lists. Valuable additions have been made to the art collection, as follows: by Charles H. Prescott of Harvard, an antique hall clock; by Charles Hildreth of Westford, Hicks' engraving of "Authors of the United States;" by E. M. Raymond of Charlestown, a copy of Guido Reni's "Daughter of Herodias," by Chatelain; a hammered iron panel by a Japanese artist; a copy of Guido Reni's "Aurora;" a copy of the same painter's "Diana and Cupid;" "Byron," by Hobday, London, 1820; "Rough Water," a painting by C. E. Davis; a copy of Lavinia Fontana's "La Donna Samaritana," by Rescigno; two figures by Rogers; and a marble statue of "Pocahontas and a Deer," by Mozier.

WESTMINSTER. The dedication of the Forbush Memorial Library took place August 22. Gen. Nelson A. Miles, a native of Westminster, was the special guest of the occasion, and made a brief address. The building has cost over \$18,000, of which sum \$10,000 was the bequest of Charles A. Forbush, "in memory of the late Joseph W. Forbush," his cousin. The town appropriated \$800 towards the purchase of the site and \$1,000 for grading and incidental expenses. The remaining sum was raised by subscription. The memorial stands a short distance from the street, in a green lawn three-fourths of an acre in extent. It is constructed of gray pressed brick, upon a granite foundation, the trimmings being of Indiana limestone. The roof is of slate, with copper gutter work. The upper story is occupied by a hall fitted up as an art room and museum. On the main floor the delivery counter, occupying a central position, commands the reading room on the right and a reference room on the left. Behind it are the book shelves and the librarian's room. The finish and furniture are of quartered oak. Wiring for electricity has been introduced, but for the present the lighting plant consists of a gasoline storage tank, located some distance from the building, connected with 66 lights, automatically fed by a Springfield machine run by water power. The basement is given to the usual heating, storage and lavatory conveniences.

WEST NEWBURY. The librarian reports increase in the hours when the books are accessible to the public; the granting of greater privileges to teachers and pupils of the schools; an increase in the demand, especially by boys, for books upon natural science; and a gift from Mrs. Thomas Smith of over 30 volumes of history and biography for youthful readers.

WEST SPRINGFIELD. The library has been improved by the addition of metallic book stacks.

WEST STOCKBRIDGE. The library has been removed to a new room in the town building. Distributing stations have been established at West Center and State Line.

WESTWOOD. A collection of books, 1,000 in number, received from the late Miss Lucy Ellis, has been placed in a special alcove, although free for circulation.

WEYMOUTH. The proceeds of a fair held under the auspices of the South Weymouth Improvement Association, amounting to \$674.22, has been placed at the disposal of the trustees of the Fogg Library, to be expended for the benefit of that institution as they deem advisable. The Tufts Library distributes books through eight delivery stations.

WORCESTER. A new steel stack has been placed in the upper story. The high reading room for magazines, literary, scientific and art papers has been divided by making a well-supported floor even with the upper gallery, and twelve windows have been placed in the walls of the lower room. The lower room is used for the same purposes as before; the upper room is used for storing books belonging to the circulating department and the children's department. The children's room has been greatly enlarged, and a reference room of increased size and a reading room for magazines and papers have been provided. The lecture hall has been lined with glazed cases for the working books needed by art students, and has been fitted up as headquarters for students of the arts of painting, sculpture, etc. A clock and station boxes to be visited several times in the night by the watchman have been installed. The great work of reclassifying and recataloguing the books in the circulating department and of revision of the catalogues of the reference and intermediate departments, begun Sept. 1, 1894, has been finished during the year. Now every book in all the departments may be found in a single alphabet, in a great card catalogue. Users of the circulating department now have not only free access to several thousand books, mainly the new books, but upon application are admitted to such sections of the books in that department as they wish to examine. The great card catalogue is on the dictionary plan, and is a carefully made subject as well as author catalogue. New card catalogues for the circulating department and the children's room have also been made, and new cases for the three catalogues and for the finding list, which has been made in connection with the cataloguing, have been procured and put in position. Popular bibliographical talks, exhibitions of photographs, engravings and rare and luxurious books and the other educational features of the library have been continued during the year as hitherto.

WRENTHAM. The trustees' report states that the circulation of books for home use from the Fiske Library in 1901-1902 was 14,200, and claims that this is "larger in proportion to population than that of any other town in the State." As the population of the town by the last census was 2,720, the per capita circulation was 5.2 volumes,—a very excellent showing, but surpassed by many towns, and nearly doubled by four or five.

THE WOMAN'S EDUCATION ASSOCIATION.

From all parts of the Commonwealth come to us grateful acknowledgments of the untiring beneficence of the Woman's Education Association. The 43 travelling libraries of this society, containing 1,237 books, have, during 1902, made 49 journeys to country villages, and a circulation of 3,448 volumes for home use is reported. Of these, only 46 per cent. were fiction. The places enjoying the privileges thus afforded them are : —

Acushnet,	Groveland,	Pelham,
Alford,	Hancock,	Plainfield,
Brimfield,	Heath,	Rowe,
Cheshire,	Huntington,	Russell,
Chilmark,	Lakeville,	Rutland,
Clarksburg,	Leverett,	Sandisfield,
Colrain,	Littleville (in Ches-	South Yarmouth,
Conway,	ter),	Wales,
Cummington,	Monterey,	Washington,
East Freetown,	North Chester,	Wendell,
Farley (in Erving),	Oakham,	West Leyden,,
Florida,	Otis,	West Stockbridge,
Goshen,	Paxton,	Windsor.

Special travelling libraries for study clubs, 8 in number, upon Venice, Florence, Rome, English architecture, Shakespeare, Italian art, Egypt and French art, have proved of great service, especially when supplemented, as they often are, by readings or lectures to the clubs by competent scholars, or those who have had the experience of foreign travel. A special juvenile library just entering upon its travels is now at Colrain, and promises to attain great popular favor. Four special ornithological libraries, of 22 volumes each, besides wall charts, etc., prepared and loaned by the Massachusetts Audubon Society, are sent out in January and July for a six-months sojourn. These are sometimes placed in charge of the school superintendents of the locality. The towns this year favored with these books about birds have been : East Longmeadow, Chester, Topsfield, Barnstable, Sunderland, Warren, Hamilton and Cotuit. Twenty-two collections of pictures have afforded 188 exhibitions in 140 different localities. The loans have been made to the school superintendents wherever, as is not

seldom the case, the public library has no room in which to display them. Ten superintendents have during the past year made use of them in their school rooms. Two beautiful collections of photographs of scenery in the Yosemite valley and along the Canadian Pacific Railway have been added to the treasures of the association by Mrs. George Russell Agassiz of the Free Public Library Commission, and will soon be put in circulation. The association receives many books and magazines from various donors, which are distributed among the most needy libraries and reading rooms. A very valuable collection, embracing over 600 photographs of scenes in Australia, New Zealand and Tasmania, was some months ago received from Mrs. Dane, and have been divided into six sets for exhibition.

The increasing public interest in pictorial art is shown by the larger demand year by year for the loan of the collections belonging to the Library Art Club and the Woman's Education Association; but an even stronger proof of this encouraging fact is the increasing number of libraries and schools, not only in our large cities but in the rural sections of the State, which possess, by gift or purchase, collections of their own, — collections constantly growing in value, and always an educational power, a perennial source of pleasure to the old as well as the young.

One of the new branches of work entered upon by the association is the preparation of lists of the best new books. These lists are printed in the spring and fall, and are intended to help those libraries which are far from book centres, and likely to be dependent on the bookseller's selection. These lists have been received with warm appreciation by the country librarians, and their issue will be continued.

THE LIBRARY ART CLUB.

Reports from the libraries which hold membership in the Library Art Club give enthusiastic evidence that this organization, which was incorporated June 14, 1900, is steadily advancing in popular favor and usefulness. It is much to be regretted that the managers of many of our town libraries seem ignorant of, or do not appreciate, the educational advantages, as well as the pleasure which can be purchased by the small annual fee required for admission to this club.

Exhibitions during 1902 have numbered 790, or 170 more than during the previous year. Of the pictorial collections, 67 in number, 45 have been bought for the society, the others coming to it by gift or loan. The latest additions have been: 100 photographs of the English lake district; 100 of Granada and the Alhambra; 216 of Italian art; 84 of Perugia; 68 of Pagan Rome; 50 of Rouen; 160 of Scotland; 201 of Switzerland; 100 of the paintings of Velasquez. The list of members now numbers 101, of which 79 are Massachusetts libraries. The president is Miss Alice G. Chandler, Lancaster, Mass.; and the secretary, Miss Mary E. Sargent, Medford, Mass.

During the year the interest in the libraries of the State has been materially stimulated by the meeting of the American Library Association at Boston and Magnolia in June, and the several meetings which have been held by the Massachusetts Library Club, and especially by the local clubs, the Bay Path, the Western Massachusetts and the Cape Cod clubs. From these local clubs the small libraries derive much encouragement and benefit.

The interest and effort in all the broader aspects of library work has never been so widespread and effective as at the present time. The libraries and the schools are gaining help, each from the other, and all for the general intellectual advancement of all the people.

C. B. TILLINGHAST.

E. P. SOHIER.

SAMUEL SWETT GREEN.

HENRY S. NOURSE.

MABEL SIMPKINS AGASSIZ.

APPENDIX I.

A ROLL OF HONOR.

LIST OF GIVERS OF FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY
BUILDINGS IN MASSACHUSETTS.

GIVERS OF FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY BUILDINGS IN MASSACHUSETTS.

ACTON, . . .	Gift of Hon. William A. Wilde of Malden.
AMESBURY, . . .	Bequest of Mary A. Barnard and others.
AMHERST, NORTH, . . .	Mainly the gift of citizens.
ANDOVER, . . .	Gift of citizens.
ARLINGTON, . . .	Gift of Mrs. Maria C. Robbins of Brooklyn, N. Y., as a memorial of her husband.
ASHBURNHAM, . . .	Gift of George F. Stevens.
ASHBY, . . .	Gift of Edwin Chapman of Boston.
AYER, . . .	Gift of Frederick F. Ayer of New York.
BARNSTABLE, . . .	Gift of Hon. William Sturgis of Boston.
BARRE, . . .	Gift of Henry Woods of Boston.
BECKET, . . .	Gift of Miss Blanche Perkins, as a memorial of her parents.
BELCHERTOWN, . . .	Bequest of John Francis Clapp.
BELMONT, . . .	Gift of Henry O. Underwood.
BERNARDSTON, . . .	Gift of Hon. Henry W. Cushman.
BILLERICA, . . .	Gift of Mrs. Joshua Bennett.
BLANDFORD, . . .	Gift of Mrs. Josephine E. S. Porter of Hartford, as a memorial of her son, Edgar Sheffield Porter.
BOLTON, . . .	Gift of Annie Eliza Whitney of Lancaster.
BOURNE, . . .	Gift of Miss Emily H. Bourne, as a memorial of her father, the Hon. Jonathan Bourne.
BRAINTREE, . . .	Gift of Gen. Sylvanus Thayer.
BROOKFIELD, . . .	Gift of William A. Banister of New York.
CAMBRIDGE, . . .	Gift of Frederick H. Rindge of Los Angeles.
CANTON, . . .	Gift of Augustus Hemenway.
CARLISLE, . . .	Gift of Mrs. Joanna Gleason of Sudbury.
CHARLEMONT, . . .	Gift of E. R. Goodnow and other citizens.
CHATHAM, . . .	Gift of Hon. Marcellus Eldredge.
CHELMSFORD, . . .	Gift of Amos F. Adams of Boston.
CHELSEA, . . .	Gift of Hon. Eustace C. Fitz.
CLINTON, . . .	Gift of Andrew Carnegie.
CONCORD, . . .	Gift of William Munroe.
CONWAY, . . .	Gift of Hon. Marshall Field of Chicago, as a memorial of his parents.
CUMMINGTON, . . .	Gift of William Cullen Bryant.
DALTON, . . .	Gift of the Crane family.
DANVERS, . . .	Gift of George Peabody.
DARTMOUTH, SOUTH, . . .	Gift of John H. Southworth of Springfield.
DEDHAM, . . .	Bequests and gifts of citizens.
DEERFIELD, . . .	Bequest of Mrs. Esther Dickinson.
DENNIS, . . .	Bequest of Jacob Sears.
DUXBURY, . . .	Gift of Mrs. George W. Wright, as a memorial of her son, George Buckham Wright.
EAST BRIDGEWATER, . . .	Gift of Cyrus Washburn of Wellesley.
EASTHAMPTON, . . .	Gift of Mrs. Emily G. Williston.
EASTON, . . .	Gift of Hon. Oliver Ames and Mrs. Sarah L. Ames.
ESSEX, . . .	Bequest of T. O. H. P. Burnham of Boston.
EVERETT, . . .	Gift of Albert M. Parlin, as a memorial of his son.
EVERETT (Glendale), . . .	Bequest of William Shute.
FAIRHAVEN, . . .	Gift of Henry H. and Abbie P. Rogers, as a memorial of their daughter, Millicent.

FITCHBURG,	Gift of Hon. Rodney Wallace.
FRANKLIN,	Gift of daughters of Hon. Joseph G. Ray, as a memorial to their father.
FREETOWN,	Gift of Mrs. E. Florence Hathaway Crowell, as a memorial of her father, Hon. Guilford B. Hathaway.
GARDNER,	Gift of children of Levi Heywood.
GEORGETOWN,	Gift of George Peabody.
GLOUCESTER,	Gift of Samuel E. Sawyer.
GRANVILLE,	Gift of Hon. M. B. Whitney and others.
GROTON,	Partly the gift of Mrs. Charlotte A. L. Sibley.
HADLEY,	Gift of John Dwight and others.
HARVARD,	Mainly the gift of natives of the town.
HATFIELD,	Bequest of Samuel H. Dickinson.
HAVERHILL,	Gift of Hon. E. J. M. Hale and other citizens.
HINGHAM,	Gift of Hon. Albert Fearing.
HINSDALE,	Gift of citizens.
HOLDEN,	Gift of Hon. Samuel C. Gale of Minneapolis.
HOLYOKE,	Gift of citizens.
HOPEDALE,	Gift of Joseph B. Bancroft, as a memorial of his wife, Mrs. Sylvia Thwing Bancroft.
HOPKINTON,	Gift of natives and residents of the town.
HUBBARDSTON,	Gift of Jonas G. Clark of Worcester.
IPSWICH,	Gift of Capt. Augustine Heard.
KINGSTON,	Bequest of Frederic C. Adams.
LANCASTER,	Mainly the gift of Nathaniel Thayer and his sons.
LAWRENCE,	Gift of Mrs. N. G. White and Miss E. A. White.
LEICESTER,	Gift of Lory S. Watson, Dr. Pliny Earle, David E. Merriam and others.
LENOX,	Gift of Mrs. Adeline E. Schermerhorn.
LEXINGTON,	Gift of Mrs. Maria Cary.
LINCOLN,	Gift of George Grosvenor Tarbell.
LITTLETON,	Gift of children of William Stevens Houghton, as a memorial of their father.
LUDLOW,	Gift of heirs of Charles T. Hubbard.
LYNN,	Gift of Mrs. Elizabeth M. Shute, as a memorial of her husband.
MALDEN,	Gift of Hon. Elisha S. Converse and his wife, as a memorial of their son.
MANCHESTER,	Gift of Thomas Jefferson Coolidge.
MANSFIELD,	Gift of Mrs. Elizabeth F. Noble and others.
MARBLEHEAD,	Bequest of Benjamin Abbot of Boston.
MARION,	Gift of Mrs. Elizabeth Taber of New Bedford.
MARLBOROUGH,	Gift of Andrew Carnegie.
MARSHFIELD,	Bequest of Seth J. Ventress.
MEDFORD,	Gift of Thatcher Magoun.
MELROSE,	Gift of Andrew Carnegie.
METHUEN,	Gift of heirs of David Nevins.
MIDDLETON,	Bequest of Hon. Charles L. Flint.
MONSON,	Gift of Mrs. Carrie R. Dale, as a memorial of her father, Horatio Lyon.
NATICK,	Bequest of Miss Mary Ann Morse.
South Natick,	Bequest of Oliver Bacon.
NEWBURYPORT,	Gift of citizens.
NEWTON,	Gift of J. Wiley Edmunds and other citizens.
NORTH ADAMS,	Gift of Hon. Albert C. Houghton, as a memorial of his brother, Andrew Jackson Houghton.
NORTHAMPTON,	Bequest of John Clarke, supplemented by other gifts and by the city.
NORTHAMPTON,	Bequest of Hon. Charles Edward Forbes.
Florence,	Gift of Alfred T. Lilly.
NORTH ATTLEBOROUGH,	Gift of children of Edmund I. and Lucy N. Richards, as a memorial of their parents.
NORTHBOROUGH,	Gift of Cyrus Gale.

NORTH BROOKFIELD,	Mainly the gift of Erasmus Haston.
NORTHFIELD,	Gift of Elijah M. Dickinson of Fitchburg.
NORTH READING,	Gift of Mrs. Charles L. Flint.
NORTON,	Gift of Mrs. Eliza B. Wheaton.
NORWOOD,	Gift of George H. Morrill and wife, as a memorial of their daughter, Miss Sarah Bond Morrill.
ORLEANS,	Built partly by subscriptions.
PEABODY,	Gift of George Peabody.
PEMBROKE (<i>Bryantville</i>),	Gift of Mrs. Rozilla Cobb.
PEPPERELL,	Bequest of Charles F. Lawrence of New York.
PETERSHAM,	Built mainly by subscriptions.
PITTSFIELD,	Gift of Hon. Thomas Allen.
PLYMOUTH,	Gift of daughters of William G. Russell.
PRINCETON,	Gift of Edward A. Goodnow, as a family memorial.
PROVINCETOWN,	Gift of Hon. Nathan Freeman.
QUINCY,	Gift of heirs of Thomas Crane.
RANDOLPH,	Gift of heirs of Col. Royal Turner.
REHOBOTH,	Gifts of Darius Goff of Pawtucket, R. I.
REVERE,	Gift of Andrew Carnegie.
ROCHESTER,	Partly the gift of Mrs. Elizabeth Leonard of New Bedford.
SALEM,	Gift of heirs of Capt. John Bertram.
SCITUATE, NORTH,	Gift of Silas Peirce of Boston, as a memorial of his wife.
SHIRLEY,	Built mainly by bequest of Mrs. Betsey D. Hazen.
SHREWSBURY,	Bequest of Jubal Howe.
SOUTHERIDGE,	Gift of Holmes Ammidown of New York.
SOUTH HADLEY,	Gift of William H. Gaylord.
SPENCER,	Gift of Richard Sugden.
SPRINGFIELD,	Gift of the City Library Association.
STERLING,	Gift of Edward Conant of Worcester, as a memorial of his daughter, Elizabeth Anne.
STOCKBRIDGE,	Gift of Hon. John Z. Goodrich.
STOW,	Gift of Miss Belinda Lull Randall, for estate of John Witt Randall.
STURBRIDGE,	Bequest of George B. Hyde of Boston, as a memorial of his father, Joshua Hyde.
SUDBURY,	Bequest of John Goodnow of Boston.
SUNDERLAND,	Gift of John Long Graves.
SWANSEA,	Gift of Hon. F. S. Stevens.
UXBRIDGE,	Gift of Hon. Edward C. Thayer of Keene, N. H.
WALPOLE,	Gift of Andrew Carnegie.
WARE,	Gift of Hon. William Hyde and others.
WARREN,	Gift of Nathan Richardson and others.
WATERTOWN,	Built by Hollis H. Hunnewell and others.
WAYLAND,	Bequest of Warren Gould Roby.
WELLESLEY,	Gift of Hollis H. Hunnewell.
WEST BROOKFIELD,	Gift of Charles Merriam of Springfield.
WESTFORD,	Gift of Hon. John Varnum Fletcher.
WESTMINSTER,	Bequest of Charles A. Forbush.
WESTWOOD,	Gift of Howard Colburn.
WEYMOUTH,	Gift of Quincy Tufts and his sister, Miss Susan Tufts.
<i>South Weymouth,</i>	Bequest of John S. Fogg.
WILLIAMSBURG,	Bequest of Stephen Meekins.
<i>Haydenville,</i>	Gift of Miss Anna Hayden.
WOBURN,	Bequest of Charles Bowers Winn, as a memorial of his father.
WRENTHAM,	Gift of heirs of Hon. Josiah J. Fiske.
YARMOUTH,	Gift of Nathan Matthews of Boston.

APPENDIX II.

FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY LAWS
OF
MASSACHUSETTS.

FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY LAWS OF MASSACHUSETTS.

[REVISED LAWS, 1902, CHAPTER 38.]

GENERAL PROVISION.

SECTION 1. Library corporations and associations which have been legally established shall continue to have all the powers and privileges and be subject to all the duties and restrictions attaching thereto.

LAW LIBRARIES.

SECTION 2. Attorneys at law who have been admitted to practise in the courts of the commonwealth and who are resident in a county for which there is no law library association may organize as a corporation, under the provisions of chapter one hundred and twenty-five, by the name of the Law Library Association for such county, and may adopt by-laws which shall be subject to the approval of the superior court.

SECTION 3. The inhabitants of the county shall have access to the library and may use the books therein, subject to the provisions of the by-laws.

SECTION 4. County treasurers shall annually pay to the law library associations in their respective counties all sums which are paid into the county treasuries during the year by the clerks of the courts, to an amount not exceeding two thousand dollars in any one year. They may also pay to said associations such further sums as the county commissioners may consider are necessary and proper. All sums which are so paid shall be applied to maintain and enlarge such libraries for the use of the courts and of citizens. The treasurer of the law library association, before receiving any money from the county treasurer, shall give bond, with sureties to the satisfaction of the commissioners, for the faithful application of such money, and that he will make a return annually to them, under oath, of the manner in which it has been expended.

SECTION 5. Each law library association shall be entitled to receive from the sergeant-at-arms, immediately after their publication, one copy of the legislative documents of the senate and house, the journal of the senate and the journal of the house.

CITY AND TOWN LIBRARIES.

SECTION 6. A city or town may establish and maintain public libraries for the use of its inhabitants, under regulations prescribed by the city council or by the town, and may receive, hold and manage any gift, bequest or devise for such library. The city council of a city or the selectmen of a town may place in such library the books, reports and laws which may be received from the commonwealth.

TRUSTEES OF TOWN LIBRARIES.

SECTION 7. A town which raises or appropriates money for the support of a free public library, or free public library and reading room, owned by the town, shall, at an annual meeting or special meeting, unless the same has been acquired entirely or in part through some gift or bequest which contains other conditions or provisions for the election of its trustees or for its care and management which have been accepted by the town, elect by ballot a board of trustees consisting of any number of persons, male or female, divisible by three, which the town determines to elect. When such board is first chosen, one-third thereof shall be elected for one year, one-third for two years and one-third for three years, and thereafter one-third shall be elected annually for the term of three years. The board shall, from its own number, annually choose a chairman and secretary and, if the town so votes, a treasurer, who shall give a bond similar to that given by the town treasurer, in an amount and with sureties to the satisfaction of the selectmen. The town treasurer shall act as treasurer of the board of trustees until the town otherwise directs.

SECTION 8. The board shall have the custody and management of the library and reading room and of all property owned by the town relating thereto. All money raised or appropriated by the town for its support and maintenance shall be expended by the board, and all money or property which the town may receive by gift or bequest for said library and reading room shall be administered by the board in accordance with the provisions of such gift or bequest.

SECTION 9. The board shall make an annual report to the town of its receipts and expenditures and of the property in its custody, with a statement of any unexpended balance of money and of any gifts or bequests which it holds in behalf of the town, with its recommendations.

SECTION 10. The provisions of the three preceding sections shall not apply to library associations, nor to a library organized under a special act,

BOARD OF FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS.

SECTION 11. There shall be a board of free public library commissioners consisting of five persons, residents of the commonwealth, one of whom shall annually be appointed by the governor, with the advice and consent of the council, for a term of five years. The governor shall designate the chairman thereof.

SECTION 12. No member shall receive any compensation, but the board may annually expend not more than five hundred dollars, payable by the commonwealth, for clerical assistance and for other necessary expenses. It shall annually in January make a report to the general court.

SECTION 13. The board shall advise the librarian or trustees of any free public library relative to the selection or cataloguing of books and any other matter pertaining to the maintenance or administration of the library.

SECTION 14. Said board may, upon the application of the library trustees of a town which has complied with the provisions of sections sixteen and seventeen, and which has no free public library owned and controlled by the town, expend not more than one hundred dollars for books to be selected and purchased by said board and delivered to said trustees for the purpose of establishing a free public library.

SECTION 15. If a town, the valuation of which is not more than six hundred thousand dollars and which has a free public library, has complied with all laws relative to the maintenance of such library, and the trustees of the library provide, to the satisfaction of the board, for the distribution of books in different parts of the town where such distribution is necessary, by means of branch libraries or deliveries, and for practical and effective means of rendering the library useful to the teachers and scholars of the public schools in such town, the board may expend, in such amounts and at such times as they determine, not more than one hundred dollars for the purchase of books for each free public library owned and controlled by such town.

SECTION 16. A town shall not be entitled to the benefits of the three preceding sections until it accepts the same or has accepted the corresponding provisions of earlier laws and has elected a board of library trustees as provided in section seven, nor until said trustees have made provision satisfactory to said commissioners for the care and distribution of the books furnished by them.

SECTION 17. Such town shall, if its last assessed valuation was one million dollars or over, annually appropriate from the dog tax, or otherwise provide for the use and maintenance of its free public library, not less than fifty dollars; if such valuation was less than

one million dollars and not less than two hundred and fifty thousand, not less than twenty-five dollars; and if such valuation was less than two hundred and fifty thousand dollars, not less than fifteen dollars.

APPROPRIATION OF MONEY FOR LIBRARIES, ETC.

Section 15, chapter 25 of the Revised Laws, provides that towns may appropriate money "for the establishment, maintenance or increase of a public library therein, and for the erection or provision of suitable buildings or rooms therefor."

"For maintaining a library therein to which the inhabitants have free access and of which they have the use, and for establishing and maintaining a public reading room in connection with and under the control of the managers of such library."

THE DOG TAX.

Section 163, chapter 102 of the Revised Laws, provides that money received for dog licenses and refunded to the towns "shall be expended for the support of public libraries or schools."

DEFACING OR WILFUL DETENTION OF BOOKS, PAPERS, ETC.

Sections 83 and 84, chapter 208 of the Revised Laws, provide that "whoever wilfully, intentionally and without right, or wantonly and without cause, writes upon, injures, defaces, tears or destroys a book, plate, picture, engraving, map, newspaper, magazine, pamphlet, manuscript or statue which belongs to a law, city, town or other public or incorporated library shall be punished by a fine of not less than five nor more than fifty dollars or by imprisonment for not more than six months."

"Whoever wilfully, intentionally and without right, or wantonly and without cause, detains a book, newspaper, magazine, pamphlet, or manuscript which belongs to a law, city, town or other public or incorporated library for thirty days after a notice in writing from the librarian thereof, containing a copy of this section and given after the expiration of the time which, by the regulations of such library, such book, newspaper, magazine, pamphlet or manuscript may be kept, shall be punished by a fine of not less than one nor more than twenty-five dollars or by imprisonment for not more than six months."

DISTURBING PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

Section 33, chapter 212 of the Revised Laws, provides that "whoever wilfully disturbs persons assembled in a public library, or a reading room connected therewith, by making a noise or in any

other manner during the time when such library or reading room is open to the public shall be punished by imprisonment for not more than thirty days or by a fine of not more than fifty dollars."

LAND MAY BE TAKEN FOR LIBRARY BUILDINGS.

Section 47 of chapter 25 of the Revised Laws provides that "any land within the limits of a city or town not appropriated to public uses" may be taken "for the purpose of erecting thereon a building to be used for a public school, a library, or an engine house, or for the enlargement of a lot of land taken or used for such purpose," — but the land thus taken may not exceed two acres in extent.

PUBLIC DOCUMENTS.

Under provisions of chapter 9 of the Revised Laws, each town and city library is entitled to receive a copy of the Manual of the General Court, the Blue Book, and a copy of the series of public documents.

